

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 OMB-01 T-03 IO-13 AID-20 AF-10 RSR-01 /150 W
----- 026402

R 100945 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7394

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SA, SZ

SUBJECT: SAUDI AMBASSADOR URGES US MIDDLE- EAST INITIATIVE

1. AT DINNER MARCH 9 HOSTED BY MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR, WHICH INCLUDED LEBANESE, ALGERIAN, SAUDI ARABIAN AND ITALIAN AMBASSADORS AS WELL AS THALMANN (SECRETARY GENERAL SWISS FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT) AND GELZER (CHIEF, WESTERN AFFAIRS IN DEPARTMENT), THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR, JAWAD ZIKRI, WHO HAS LONG EXPERIENCE MIDDLE EAST, POINTEDLY TOOK ME ASIDE TO STATE QUOTE NOW IS MOMENT FOR US UNDERTAKE INITIATIVE FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT PALESTINIAN PROBLEM END QUOTE. HE POINTED OUT THAT BECAUSE OF KHARTOUM TRAGEDY, US' MANY FRIENDS IN MIDDLE EAST WILL EXERT PRESSURE ON OTHER ARAB NATIONS, PROVIDED US EXERTS PRESSURE UPON ISRAELIS TO GIVE UP SUFFICIENT TERRITORY ON WHICH PALESTINIANS COULD LIVE.

2. ZIKRI MENTIONED COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND US BECAUSE OF OIL, AND IN LONG AFTER- DINNER CONVERSATION STRESSED THIS IS PERFECT TIME FOR US INITIATIVE WHILE US HAS SYMPATHY ARAB WORLD. HE EMPHASIZED MANY TIMES THAT QUOTE MOMENT IS NOW END QUOTE.

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3. SAUDI ARABIAN AMBASSADOR HAS NEVER BEFORE INITIATED
CONVERSATION WITH ME ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN OUR NEARLY
FOUR YEARS ACQUAINTANCE, AND I BELIEVE HE FELT IT IMPORTANT
THAT HIS VIEWS, NO DOUBT REFLECTING THOSE OF HIS GOVERN-
MENT, REACH WASHINGTON. ZIKRK IS SERIOUS, DEVOUT MAN WHO
APPEARS TO HAVE RESPECT FELLOW ARAB NATIONS.

EXEMPT

DAVIS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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